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AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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SUBJ: PORTUGUESE FAR EAST DECOLONIZATION: STATUS REPORT

REF: LISBON 3539

SUMMARY: TIMOR DECOLONIZATION CONFERENCE STARTING WITHOUT PRESENCE OF ONE OF PRINCIPALS. INDONESIAN INTEREST IN CONFERENCE BEING NOTED IN LISBON, GOP OFFICIALS COMMENT ON FUTURE OF MACAO AND GOP/PRC RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. TIMOR DECOLONIZATION SUMMIT IN MACAO DUE TO GET UNDER WAY JUNE 26, WITH GOP DELEGATION HEADED BY INTERTERRITORIAL MINISTER ALMEIDA SANTOS AND AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE MAJ. VITOR ALVES TALKING TO REPRESENTATIVES OF UDT AND APODETI (REFTEL). THIRD TIMORESE PARTY, FRETILIN, HAS NOT SHOWN UP. ACCORDING TO ALVES, CONFERENCE IS GOING TO PROCEED EVEN IN FRETILIN'S ABSENCE, WITH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL IN LISBON SLATED TO CONSIDER DECREE-LAW

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SETTING OUT DECOLONIZATION TIMETABLE ONCE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION HAS RETURNED FROM CONFERENCE AND MADE ITS REPORT.

2. INDONESIA, TIMOR'S NOT-DISINTERESTED NEIGHBOR, LOOMS LARGE IN LISBON'S VIEW OF CONFERENCE. PRESS HERE HAS NOTED PRESENCE IN MACAO OF SIGNIFICANT INDONESIAN JOURNALISTIC DELEGATION TO COVER TALKS. LISBON PRESS IS ALSO NOTING RADIO KUPANG BROADCAST SPREADING "RUMORS AND LIES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND ARMED FORCES" ON TIMOR. INDONESIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES VICE PRESIDENT JOHN NARO IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID: "INDONESIA CANNOT ALLOW THE PORTUGUESE ENCLAVE OF TIMOR TO COME UNDER COMMUNIST INFLUENCE."

3. MACAO FIGURES IN SOMEWHAT DIVERGENT STATEMENTS BY SANTOS AND ALVES. ACCORDING TO FORMER, GOP DELEGATION WILL DISCUSS DRAFT STATUTE FOR MACAO WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS, GIVING IT "ONE LAST READING." ON OTHER HAND, ALVES SAYS DELEGATION WILL TRY TO "SOUND OUT OPINION" OF PEOPLE OF MACAO ON DRAFT. IN EITHER CASE, HOWEVER, NO "STRUCTURAL REFORMS" APPEAR TO BE IN CARDS; PRIMARY THRUST IS EXPECTED TO BE IN DIRECTION OF GREATER AUTONOMY IN LOCAL MATTERS.

4. CHINA'S ROLE IN MATTERS CONCERNING MACAO IS OPENLY RECOGNIZED FACTOR. WHILE OTHER PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES HAVE ALL HAD INDEPENDENCE OPTION OPEN TO THEM, SUCH HAS NEVER BEEN CASE WITH MACAO. COMMONLY ACCEPTED WISDOM IN LISBON IS THAT CHINA WOULD "IN NO WAY" PERMIT SUCH DEVELOPMENT.

5. GOP/PRC RELATIONS CAN BE SUMMED UP (ACCORDING TO ALVES) IN TERMS OF CONTINUING TOP INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING THEM AND CONTINUING PRC ALOOFNESS: " IN ORDER TO HAVE AN AGREEMENT, YOU HAVE TO HAVE TWO CONTRACTING PARTIES." ALVES ALSO SAID GOP HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH CHINESE VIA THIRD PARTY INTERMEDIARIES WITHOUT, HOWEVER, SPECIFYING WHOM. PRESS SPECULATION HAS NOT SHED ADDITIONAL LIGHT, SUGGESTING ONLY THAT INTERMEDIARIES ARE AFRICANS.

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